

Gravette Public Library Commission-Committee Meeting

October 30, 2012

Date		
Meeting Type	Special	
Meeting Place	Gravette Public Library	
Convene Time	5:30p.m.	
Presiding	Bill Reynolds	
Recorder	Makayla Brown	
Members	Present	Absent
Bill Reynolds, Chair	x	
Lisa Singleton, Vice-Chair & Finance Secretary	x	
Makayla Brown, Secretary	x	
Jeff Gravette		x
Susan Holland	x	
Rhonda Barnett	x	
Steve Oler	x	
Staff Attending	Present	Absent
Manager, Kim Schneider		x
Clerk, Stephanie Thomas		x
Guests	City Councilwoman Margo Thomas, City Councilman Jimmy Denver	
Quorum	yes	
Guest Speaker	none	

Items of Discussion:

Chairman Reynolds gave a concise review of the October 23 tour a group took with a contractor for estimates on renovating various sites.

Present library: Contractor's opinion is that this is not a good option for renovation.

Duffield's & City Hall: Structurally sound walls but not floors. Under city hall one could have two floors because of a deep basement. Duffield's has a crawl space. Both roofs are bad and the contractor's opinion is that this will be an expensive renovation, easily one million dollars.

Callason-Lough: Contractor's opinion was it would be more efficient to raze the building and start fresh on the lot.

Civic Center-Contractor's opinion was that this was the best option they presented him.

Gravette Public Library Commission-Committee Meeting

October 30, 2012

Discussion ensued of the renewal of the Boys' and Girls' Club contract. There is confusion as to when the City Council will vote whether to renew the contract. We are getting different messages from different sources.

It was mentioned that the contractor mentioned a steel building would be much cheaper.

Margo Thomas suggested we get more than one contractor/architect's opinion. She made the point that estimates can vary widely.

Jimmy Denver asked questions to clarify our purpose in all this:

1. What issues are we trying to address with a new library? Space/growth issues
2. What are the personalities of the grants we have researched and begun to pursue—new building versus restoration? Most, if not all, were for restoration.
3. What is the draw of downtown exactly? Do we just want a great site? No, we also need to consider location.

Commission members were interested in the possibility of changing positions with the Boys' and Girls' Club.

We then pursued the question of buying a clean lot and starting over:

1. Calason-Lough: City council members present are concerned that we did not pursue buying it earlier. Denver asks that the commission offer the owners a low price, and ask about writing off the difference between price and appraisal. Thirty thousand was mentioned by a councilmember; Thomas suggested much lower in negotiation, like fifteen or eighteen thousand rather than starting so close to what we hope to get it for.

2. Two more properties, down the road, clean lots, were mentioned. There is a third lot of comparable size to the west, also.

Steve Oler remembered that the Rural Library Project had steel buildings in their portfolio. There was discussion of the possibility of a steel building, prefabricated.

DNF building, across from Dan Yates' and the Bank of Gravett, was discussed.

Susan Holland mentioned that this property had been discussed in a previous campaign but the solid concrete floor was a deterrent. The possibility of razing the building was discussed.

On other issues, another part-time position has been requested. Commission held a discussion of hours of operation. Commission would like to see more records of who is working when before requesting another employee.

Christmas dinner-question as to the space rental fee

Regularly-scheduled November meeting postponed.

Gravette Public Library Commission-Committee Meeting

October 30, 2012

Susan Holland reported on the Fall Fundraiser, spearheaded by Stephanie Thomas. It was a wonderful time, a success for fun and funds, and we need to make sure to encourage it in the future.

Announcements:

#1-Next meeting scheduled for [December 4] @ 5:30 PM.

Adjournment @ 6:25 pm